

CONFIDENTIAL

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PP RUEHC
DE RUEHGR #0665 0451750
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P 141730Z FEB 84
FM AMEMBASSY GRENADA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0875
INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0046
RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY 0565
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L GRENADA 0665

EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, GJ, VE
SUBJECT: TIMING OF GRENADA ELECTIONS

REFS: A) CARACAS 1193, B) STATE 43196

1. CONFIDENTIALMBA ENTIRE TEXT.

25X1

2. WE WISH TO CORRECT IMPRESSION APPARENTLY CREATED IN PART BY RECENT STATEMENTS MADE BY PATRICK EMMANUEL IN CARACAS THAT THE GRENADIAN ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN SET FOR EARLY NOVEMBER. WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A DECISION TO THAT EFFECT AND INDEED WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT, AS A NON-ELECTED BODY, HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE THE TIMING FOR ELECTIONS, A RIGHT WHICH RESTS WITH THE GOVERNOR GENERAL WHO CONTINUES TO BE THE SOLE LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY ON THE ISLAND. IT IS OF COURSE LIKELY THAT THE GG WILL CONSULT CLOSELY WITH THE ADVISORY COUNCIL BEFORE MAKING A FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON A DATE.

State Dept. review completed

3. THE GOVERNOR GENERAL HAS REPEATEDLY STATED, MOST RECENTLY DURING FEB 12 VISIT BY CODEL MONTGOMERY, THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD WITHIN THIS YEAR, BUT THAT HE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THE EXACT DATE BASED ON HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE EVOLVING POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH VIABLE ALTERNATIVES TO GAIRY AND THE NUM HAVE HAD TIME TO FORM. WHILE NOVEMBER IS FREQUENTLY MENTIONED AS THE MOST LIKELY TIME FOR ELECTIONS, WE WOULD NOT RULE OUT AN EARLIER DATE.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

4. FYI CARACAS. IN FEBRUARY 1 RESHUFLING OF PORTFOLIOS, RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS SHIFTED FROM PATRICK EMMANUEL TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL, NICHOLAS BRATHWAITE.
YOHNN
END OF MESSAGE

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